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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF CHESHAM

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1951

T. P. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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T.P.EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Chesham, Bucks.

August, 1952.

To the Chairman & Members of the
Chesham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1951.

It is a pleasant duty to report that during this year there has not been a single case of diphtheria notified to me, thus making 1951 the seventh year in succession since the last case was notified. This record is one of which any district might well be proud, but at the same time I think it is opportune to issue a word of warning. This pride should be tempered with the knowledge that the elimination of diphtheria is conditional upon an adequate level of immunisation in the child population. For this purpose it is essential to secure that not less than 75% of babies are immunized before their first birthday. The successful results of the campaign against diphtheria over the past ten years has, I am afraid, lulled many mothers into a sense of false security.

I wish to thank my colleagues and other Officers of the Council for their co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

T.P.EVANS

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

T.P.Evans, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

L.D.Saturley, Cert S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

A.P.Wells, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

ASSISTANT RODENT OFFICER

J.G.Dobson

CLERK

Miss R.A.Nichols (Resigned 11.5.51)

R.Hutchinson (Appointed 19.7.51)

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A. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population (estimated mid-year)	11,410
Area (acres) of District	3,489
Number of inhabited dwellings (per Rate Book)	3,698
Rateable Value of Area (31.12.51)	£80,070
Product of 1d. Rate (1951/2)	£310

The Urban District of Chesham was extended by the Bucks Review Order of 1934 from an acreage of 1,357 to the present acreage of 3,489. The rateable value on 1st April, 1920 was £46,915, on the 1st April, 1934 it was £56,528, whilst on 31st March, 1951 it was £79, 026.

The population of Chesham in 1921 was 8,534; in 1931 8,809; and the Registrar-General's estimate for 1951 was 11,410.

The product of a 1d. rate has increased from £216 for the financial year 1934-5 to £310 for the financial year 1951/52.

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

Births, Infant and Maternal Mortality.

		Males	Females	Total
(a)	Notified Live Births			
	Legitimate	89	95	184
	Illegitimate	1	4	5
(b)	Notified Still Births	Males	Females	Total
	Legitimate	-	-	-
	Illegitimate	-	-	-

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	16.6
Live Birth Rate; England and Wales	15.5
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	0.0
(c) Deaths from puerperal causes	Nil
(d) Deaths of Infants under one year of age	4

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

(e) Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age 4

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age :-

Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births	21.7
All infants per 1,000 registered live births . ..	21.2
All infants per 1,000 live births: England and Wales	29.6

Deaths.

Death rate per 1,000 population	14.4
Death rate, England and Wales	12.5

Causes of Death.

		Males	Females	Total
1.	Respiratory Tuberculosis ..	1	-	1
2.	Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-	1
3.	Malignant Neoplasms	15	11	26
4.	Diabetes	1	-	1
5.	Vascular lesions of Nervous System	8	12	20
6.	Heart Diseases	13	21	34
7.	Other circulatory Diseases.	3	3	6
8.	Influenza	1	10	11
9.	Pneumonia	8	4	12
10.	Bronchitis	8	5	13
11.	Other diseases of Respiratory System.	1	-	1
12.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
13.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	1	1
14.	Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	2	4	6
15.	Hyperplasia of Prostate ..	4	-	4
16.	Congenital Malformations ..	3	-	3
17.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	9	16
18.	Motor vehicle accidents ..	3	1	4
19.	All Other Accidents	1	-	1
20.	Suicide..	1	1	2
	Total of all causes :	82	82	164

COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM.

POPULATIONS, BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEAR 1951.

District	Registrar-Gen. Estimated Population 1951	Birth Rate per 1000	Death Rate per 1000	Phthisis Death Rate per 1000	Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 births	Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1000 births	Maternal Mortality per 1000 live and still-births
URBAN.							
Aylesbury	20,530	16.8	9 6	0.19	40.6	29.0	-
Beaconsfield	7,949	14.8	9.9	0.13	33.9	25.4	-
Bletchley	10,927	14.6	9.7	0.09	31.4	31.4	-
Buckingham	4,005	14.7	12.2	-	50.8	33.9	-
Chesham	11,410	16.6	14.4	0.09	21.2	21.2	-
Eton	4,676	11.3	6.4	0.43	-	-	-
Linslade	3,259	18.1	12.9	-	16.9	16.9	-
Marlow	6,468	15.0	12.2	-	10.3	-	-
Newport Pagnell	4,256	10.8	12.0	-	43.5	-	-
Slough	66,430	15.4	8.9	0.24	23.4	16.6	0.96
Wolverton	13,390	12.8	13.2	0.07	23.4	23.4	-
Wycombe	41,300	15.4	10.6	0.15	25.2	17.3	-
TOTAL URBAN	194,600	15.2	10.3	0.16	26.4	19.3	0.33
RURAL.							
Amersham	41,750	13.6	11.5	0.22	19.4	15.9	-
Aylesbury	30,330	15.4	10.6	0.13	23.6	19.3	4.21
Buckingham	10,527	13.9	9.1	-	20.5	13.7	-
Eton	42,990	14.7	10.8	0.14	28.4	15.8	-
Newport Pagnell	13,750	15.3	13.8	0.07	9.5	4.7	-
Wing	8,933	16.3	12.8	-	41.1	34.2	-
Winslow	7,420	19.5	18.5	0.13	48.3	27.6	-
Wycombe	40,000	15.6	10.4	0.08	14.4	12.8	-
TOTAL RURAL	195,700	15.0	11.3	0.12	22.8	16.3	0.67
TOTAL COUNTY	390,300	15.1	10.8	0.14	24.6	17.8	0.50
England and Wales	-	15.5	12.5	0.31	29.6	-	0.79

B. HEALTH SERVICES.

1. HOSPITAL FACILITIES.

Chesham Urban District is situated in the Oxford Regional Hospital Area. The Regional Hospital Board has delegated the duty management of the local hospitals to the High Wycombe and District Management Committee which in turn has delegated day-to-day administration to two House Committees. One House Committee is responsible for three hospitals, viz., the Amersham General Hospital, the Chesham (Cottage) Hospital and the Stone Maternity Hospital, Chalfont St. Giles. The other is responsible for the Chalfont and Gerrards Cross Hospital, Chalfont St. Peter.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases and needing admission to hospital are removed to either Aylesbury Isolation Hospital or the Park Isolation Hospital, Reading, according to the patient's residence or the availability of accommodation in either of these hospitals.

The Booker Isolation Hospital has now been adapted and is used for non-infectious categories of patient, including chronic sick, for whom existing accommodation is inadequate.

2. LABORATORY SERVICES.

The Public Health Laboratory Service, organised and administered by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health since 1939, will continue to be administered on a peace-time basis on behalf of the Ministry of Health for an initial period of five years after the appointed day of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

The Service is concerned with Bacteriology and Epidemiology in relation to the diagnosis, prevention and control of infectious disease.

Public Health Laboratories are situated at Walton Street, Oxford, and at Town Hall, Luton, and in general undertake free of charge the bacteriological examination of such specimens as sputum, nose and throat swabs, faeces, urine, blood, etc. The bacteriological examination of samples of water, milk and ice-cream is carried out at the Public Health Laboratories, Luton.

The chemical examination of water is undertaken by the Public Analyst, Southwark Borough Council.

3. AMBULANCE SERVICES.

Since the operation of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council is responsible for the provision of ambulance facilities of all kinds. The Bucks County Council provides an ambulance service for non-infectious cases for the whole of the County through the agency of the Order of St.John and the British Red Cross Society. Two St.John's Ambulances are stationed in Chesham.

Ambulances for the removal of infectious cases are stationed at Aylesbury and Slough.

I wish to place on record the splendid services performed by the Chesham St.John Ambulance Brigade in the year under review The transport activities of their ambulances are well illustrated by the following figures which are published by courtesy of the Divisional Superintendent, Mr.H.J.Humphrey, 111, High Street, Chesham.

		1948	1949	1950	1951
(a)	Removals to Hospital . .	1,034	1,200	1,727	2,260
(b)	Accidents attended . .	76	101	136	232
(c)	Military Service cases .	6	16	40	39
(d)	Total	1,116	1,317	1,903	2,531
(e)	Mileage	23,695	26,561	37,636	47,694

It is a very pleasant duty once again to thank all the officers and personnel of the Brigade who gave their valuable service to the town in such an unobtrusive and unheralded manner.

4. NURSING IN THE HOME.

This service is now provided by Sister Monaghan, S.R.N.,S.C.M., R.F.N., Q.N., Sister Thomas, S.R.N.,S.C.M.,Q.N., and Sister Moran. S.R.N., from 305, Berkhamsted Road, Chesham. The nursing sisters also hold an ante-natal clinic at this address.

5. CLINICS.

There has been no major change in the dual services provided at the Germain Street Clinic, viz., a Minor Ailments Clinic and a Specialised Service Clinic.

The Venereal Diseases Scheme of the Bucks County Council has established clinics at King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor, and at High Wycombe.

C. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1. INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were 210 cases of Infectious Disease notified, as follows

Infectious Diseases.

Disease	Cases Notified	Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	2	1	-
Measles	191	1	-
Whooping Cough	15	-	-
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	1	-
Dysentary Sonne	1	1	-

There were also 6 primary notifications of tuberculosis.

The following table shows the new cases of Tuberculosis and the deaths from the disease, arranged in age groups.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 - 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 - 75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	-

D. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER SUPPLY.

Briefly the Undertakings within the Chesham Urban District are as follows :-

(a) Chesham Urban District Council supply a part of the district which can be conveniently described as the area of the Urban District prior to the extension of boundaries to their present position. The area of supply is 1,357 acres being approximately 40 per cent. of the Urban Area (3,489 acres), but it contains about 76 per cent. of the total number of dwelling-houses.

(b) Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company serves what we might call the North-West area which extends roughly from Chartridge Lane to the west side of Vale Road in the Northern part of the district. Within this district in Pednor Road there are approximately ten dwelling-houses which have individual boreholes and hand-pumps.

These boreholes are subject to regular sampling and the water is reported to be of high bacterial and chemical purity.

(c) The Great Berkhamsted Water Company serves the North-East area which comprises the fringe formed by the difference in the two boundaries, the old and the new, and which extends roughly from the east side of Vale Road, Nashleigh Hill to Lye Green Road.

(d) Amersham and Beaconsfield Water Company supplies the southern area, mainly Bois Moor Road, which comprises a very small part of the district.

Samples of Public Water Supplies collected during the Year

Name of Water Undertaking	Samples for Bacteriological Examination		Samples for Chemical Analysis	
	Date	Result	Date	Result
Chesham Urban District Council	21. 2.51	Satisfactory	21. 2.51	Satisfactory
	4. 4.51	Satisfactory	4. 4.51	Satisfactory
	26. 7.51	Satisfactory	26. 7.51	Satisfactory
	15.10.51	Satisfactory	15.10.51	Satisfactory
Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company	4. 4.51	Satisfactory	4. 4.51	Satisfactory
	14. 8.51	Satisfactory	14. 8.51	Satisfactory
Amersham & Beaconsfield Water Company	17. 1.51	Satisfactory	17. 1.51	Satisfactory
	2. 8.51	Satisfactory	2. 8.51	Satisfactory
	10.10.51	Satisfactory	10.10.51	Satisfactory
Berkhamsted Water Company	17. 1.51	Satisfactory	17. 1.51	Satisfactory
	20. 8.51	Satisfactory	20. 8.51	Satisfactory

Specimen copies of the Analyses are to be found in the Appendices I - IV.

I am satisfied with the purity of the water from all undertakings within the Urban District of Chesham both in regard to quality and quantity. The supplies receive no treatment other than chlorination and the waters are not liable to have plumbosolvent action.

The number of dwelling-houses having no internal water supply is small, being approximately two per cent. of the total number of dwellings and many of these would have been dealt with under the Housing Acts but for the commencement of hostilities.

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Only the outlying areas of the District remain unsewered, in areas where, due to the contours of the land, the necessary fall to the sewage farm would be difficult to obtain. The Council's cesspool emptying machine emptied 480 cesspools during 1951, 167 of these being in the Urban District, whilst the remainder were in adjoining areas.

The sewerage is on the separate system, the soil water sewer discharging at the Council's Sewage Disposal Plant in Latimer Road, Chesham.

3. REFUSE DISPOSAL.

All house refuse collected in the Urban District is disposed of by incineration at the Council's Incinerator Plant in Latimer Road, Chesham.

Salvage Return for 1951

	tons	cwts.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste paper	14	8	62	132	11	3
Scrap Iron	15	4	56	46	18	6
Bottles	2	7	56	5	18	4
Lead			84	3	15	0
Brass	1	1	57	7	7	2
	33	2	91	196	10	3

4. POST-WAR HOUSING.

In the period from May, 1951, to April, 1952, the Council have rehoused 67 families, including 28 exchanges of tenancy.

Since 1946, Chesham Council have provided alternative housing accommodation for 554 families and the following details of the number of new dwellings erected in the post-war period are of interest.

Year	New Dwellings	
1946/47	35	(Pre-fab. bungalows)
1947/48	14	
1948/49	119	
1949/50	73	
1950/51	41	
1951 - April, 1952	24	
Total	306	

Eight cases of statutory overcrowding, as defined by Section 58 of the Housing Act, 1936, have been abated during the period, 7 cases occurring in privately owned property and one case in Council property.

E. SANITARY INSPECTION.

1. SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS.

Number of Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	74
" " " revisited " " " "	143
" " " inspected " Housing Acts	1
" " " revisited " " "	-
" " " inspected for vermin	8
" " rooms disinfested	24
" " revisits to verminous premises	6
Miscellaneous visits to houses	1148
Visits where infectious disease had occurred	3
Number of rooms disinfected	2
Visits to Slaughterhouse (Meat Inspection)	785
" " Butchers' shops	49
" " Fish shops	17
" " Grocers' shops	64
" " Ice-cream premises	40
" " Food preparing places	16
" " Restaurants	18
" " Bakehouses	13
" " Dairies	1
" in connection with milk sampling	10
" to licensed premises	17
" " Factory canteens	4
" " Knacker's Yard	1
" " and inspections of Factories	22
" " Outworkers' premises	28
" in connection with water supply	61
Interviews	140
Miscellaneous visits	225

2. LIBRARY BOOKS.

During the year, three library books were withdrawn from houses where infectious disease had occurred and were disinfected before being returned to the librarian for re-circulation.

3. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

During the year eight verminous premises were dealt with by the staff of the Public Health Department, involving the disinfestation of twenty-four rooms. Treatment with D.D.T. preparations proved effective in each case.

4. ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

The table set out overleaf shows the number of defects which have been dealt with by means of informal action during 1951:-

Abatment of Nuisances.

Defect	Number of Defects			
	Outstanding on 1.1.51	Reported in 1951	Remedied in 1951	Outstanding on 31.12.51
Dampness	26	43	38	31
Defective doors and windows	10	17	19	8
Defective roof surface water drainage	5	19	14	10
Defective sanitary accommodation	6	12	16	2
Defective floors, stairs, etc.	6	4	8	2
Defective dustbins	-	7	7	-
Defective plasterwork	8	12	15	5
Defective fireplaces	3	5	4	4
Leaking roofs	10	15	11	14
Defective and dangerous ceilings	1	2	1	2
Defective drainage systems	-	5	4	1
Defective coppers	1	1	1	1
Choked drains	-	1	1	-
Miscellaneous	5	1	4	2
Totals	81	144	143	82

5. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. STATUTORY NOTICES.

The following is a statement of the Statutory Notices served and complied with during the year :-

Section of Act.	No. of Notices outstanding on 1.1.51	No. of Notices Served	Details	Notices Complied with (By owners)
39	1	-	Defective drainage systems.	1
45	1	-	Defective sanitary accommodation.	1
93	3	-	Abatement of nuisances.	3

The defects remedied by owners in compliance with the above Statutory Notices are as follows :-

Defective roof surface water drainage	1
Defective ventilation pipe to drainage system..	1
Leaking roofs.	3
Fractured overflow pipe from W.C. cistern..	1
Defective ceiling plaster	1
Broken sashcords to windows	1
Defective floorboarding	2

6. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. PROVISION OF DUSTBINS.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 75 (3) of the Act and following the procedure described in the Report for 1950, dustbins were provided by the Council at four houses within the District during the year.

7. HOUSING.

I. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1)(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	75
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	218
(2)(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts	1
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose Visits to properties already recorded in (2)(a)	1
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	74

II. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices:-

(1)	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	48

III. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

A.- Proceedings under Sections 9,10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) by Owners 0
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners 0

B.- Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices .....

(a) by Owners 4
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners 0

C.- Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

(3) Number of individual unfit houses in respect of which the Local Authority accepted undertakings either that the premises would be rendered fit for human habitation within a specified period, or that they would not be used for human habitation until rendered fit for that purpose 3

D.- Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

Housing Act, 1936: Overcrowding

(a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 8
(b) Number of persons concerned in cases under (a) 38
(c) Number of cases of overcrowding in Council Houses relieved during the year, (included under (a)) 1

8. RODENT CONTROL.

The operation of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, which came into force on the 31st March, 1950, has entailed little modification of the Council's methods of rodent control, other than to extend the area to be surveyed. This has become necessary owing to the fact that the Council's powers now extend to agricultural hereditaments. In addition to the regular survey of the District, the Council's sewers are treated at regular intervals with satisfactory results.

Set out below is a copy of the annual return for the period under review, which has been forwarded to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, as required by the Act of 1949.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.
Report for Year ended 31st December, 1951.

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	Total
I. Total no. of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 & 2)	9	3462	33	520	4024
II. No. of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1951 as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise. (Notes 1,2, & 3)	(a) 2 (b) 21	153 983	4 18	10 61	169 1083
III. No. of properties (Under II) found to be infested by rats (Notes 1,2 and 3)	Major 3 Minor 1	20 173	- 1	1 15	- -
IV. No. of properties (Under II) found to be seriously infested by mice (Notes 1, 2 & 3)	-	5	-	3	-
V. No. of infested properties (under III & IV) treated by the Local Authority (Notes 1, 2 & 3)	4	193	1	16	-
VI. No. of notices served under Section 4 :- (1) Treatment (2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Total:	-	-	-	-	-
VII. No. of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4.	-	-	-	-	-
VIII. Legal Proceedings	-	-	-	-	-
IX. No. of "block" control schemes carried out	....27....				

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 - Continued

Notes

Note 1. A property means a property separately entered in the Valuation Roll for the area.

Note 2. Council houses should be included under Dwelling-houses
Premises used by Local Authority for purposes of trade should be included under Business or Industrial Premises.
Sewers should not be included.
Only properties devoted to agricultural or horticultural production should be included under Agricultural Properties.
Combined dwelling and business premises where occupied by the same person should be included under Business Premises otherwise they should be entered separately.

Note 3. II, III, IV and V in each case relate to the number of properties inspected as defined in Note I, not to the number of inspections, infestations or treatments at each property.

F. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. MILK.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.
Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.
Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Since the coming into operation of the above-mentioned Regulations on the 1st October, 1949, the duties of Local Authorities have been concerned mainly with the enforcement of provisions relating to the distribution of milk and to its handling and treatment at premises other than dairy farms. The provisions with regard to infection of milk with diseases communicable to man are also the responsibility of Local Authorities.

During the year 6 samples of bottled milk in respect of which the special designation "Pasteurised" was in use were collected from licensed distributors in the area and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination.

All but one sample passed the prescribed tests for "Pasteurised" milk. The sample which did not conform to the standard was obtained from a Dealer whose pasteurising plant is situated outside the District and the Chief Sanitary Inspector of the responsible Local Authority stated at the time that the probable explanation of the unsatisfactory result was a temporary breakdown which had occurred at the plant. Subsequent samples from the same supply were found to be satisfactory.

The number and type of licences granted by this Authority under the Regulations are given below :-

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" 2

Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" 2

Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" 1

Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Sterilised" 1

Food and Drugs Acts
Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 - Article 20.
Brucella Infection.

As the result of bacteriological analysis of samples of milk taken from supplied derived from milk producers in the Urban District, four supplies were found to be Brucella infected.

In all cases, the farms were visited and the producer interviewed. As in every case the supplies were sent direct to pasteurising establishments, no formal action under the above Regulations was necessary.

2. MEAT INSPECTION.

Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouse.

The Ministry of Food continue to operate the slaughterhouse situated on the premises of the Chesham, Wycombe and Tring Co-operative Society, Ltd., High Street, Chesham. This slaughterhouse, which is of modern construction, serves as a slaughtering centre for the supply of home-killed beef, veal and mutton for Chesham and the surrounding districts. This area has a population of over 50,000.

There has been a steady increase since 1946 in the amount of slaughtering carried out and this increase has continued during the year under review. The Council's Sanitary Inspectors are responsible for the examination of all meat, and a system of 100% inspection is in operation. This work has involved 789 visits to the slaughterhouse during the past twelve months.

Cysticercus Bovis.

The routine post mortem examination of cattle included a search for cysticercus bovis infestation, as recommended by the Ministry of Food in 1948. The detection of this condition is important in relation to meat inspection as the consumption of flesh containing viable cysts can give rise to a tapeworm infection in man. In 1951, 26 cases were discovered representing an incidence of 1.2% in animals examined. The examination revealed only slight infestations and in no case was it necessary for the carcases affected to be totally condemned. As a measure of safety, however, all carcases and offal from affected animals were sent to manufacturers where the meat, before use for human consumption was subjected to suitable treatment to render the cysts harmless.

In an effort to trace the sources of infection, particulars of affected animals were sent to the Public Health Departments of the Authorities in whose areas the animals were last known to have been located, with a view to enquiries being made on the farms concerned. No success in tracking down human tapeworm carriers has, however, been reported. The chief difficulty met with in investigations appears to be the fact that the animals concerned have passed through the hands of various owners prior to slaughter.

Summary of Inspections and Condemnations at Slaughterhouse.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1776	401	1393	3334	89
Number inspected	1776	401	1393	3334	89
All Diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcases condemned.	2	6	5	2	4
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned.	636	133	1	83	20
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	35.9%	34.75%	.4%	2.5%	26.3%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned.	6	12	6	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned.	146	61	-	-	4
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	8.6%	18.25%	.4%	-	5.6%

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1950 12
Applications for Licences considered during 1951 2
Number of Slaughtermen removed from Register (no applications for renewal of Licences) .. .. -
Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1951 14

3. CONDEMNED FOODSTUFFS.

	Tons	Cwts.	lbs.
Beef	14	6	46
Mutton		2	94
Pork		12	60¾
Veal		4	63½
Ham		1	71½
Jellied Veal			36
Luncheon Meat			4¾
Corned Beef			40½
Fish		2	41
Butter			1½
Bacon			8
Cheese			65¾
Vanilla Wafer Biscuits			38
Mincemeat			40
	15	12	51¼

Tinned Goods.

Milk	505	tins
Fish	39	"
Meat	352	"
Fruit	260	"
Vegetables	626	"
Jam and Marmalade	3	"
Sundry Goods	4	" or jars

4. INSPECTIONS OF FOOD PREMISES.

Frequent visits to all classes of food premises continued to be made during the year. During the course of these visits every effort was made to encourage the occupiers to achieve the highest possible standard of hygiene in the conditions under which food is kept or sold on their premises. It is satisfying to report that the majority of food premises in this District now comply with the structural standard which can be enforced under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Defects are, however, still to be found in the methods of food storage, handling and display. Whilst the knowledge of possible risks from unhygienic methods is undoubtedly growing, there is a need to educate food trade workers so that they will recognise bad practices and adopt higher standards.

The following table shows the principal defects found and remedied in food premises during the year.

Particulars	Number of Defects			
	Out-standing on 1.1.51	Found During Year	Remedied During Year	Out-standing on 31.12.51
Want of cleanliness and poor decorations in food rooms.	8	4	8	4
Walls, floors and ceilings of food rooms in disrepair.	5	2	1	6
Inadequate washing facilities for use of staff.	8	2	8	2
Unsatisfactory food storage accommodation.	1	5	5	1
Unsatisfactory refuse accommodation.	1	1	2	-
Miscellaneous defects.	-	7	7	-
Totals	23	21	31	13

Dogs in Food Shops, Restaurants, etc.

In October, 1951, a circular was received from the Ministry of Food giving the Minister's views on measures that can be taken to prevent dogs being brought into premises in which food is sold. Whilst agreeing that in the interests of hygiene dogs should not be allowed in food premises, the Minister was of the opinion that the problem was one for voluntary action rather than prohibitive legislation.

The Minister recommended that if they had not already done so local authorities should consider the advantage of encouraging food traders to display a notice signed by the Medical Officer of Health requesting customers not to bring dogs into the premises.

On considering the matter, this Council decided to adopt this practice and gave approval for the printing of notices modelled on the lines suggested by the Ministry and for their distribution to all food traders in this District.

The notice takes the following form:-

URBAN DISTRICT OF CHESHAM

DOGS

In the interest of hygiene you are requested not to bring your dog into premises in which food is sold.

T.P.EVANS
Medical Officer of Health.

5. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 - SECTION 89.
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 - SECTION 13.

Licensed Premises.

A number of improvements have been carried out in licensed premises during the year. These improvements were made by the owners after their attention had been drawn to the unsatisfactory items by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Particulars of the defects remedied are given in the table below which also shows that a number of necessary improvements are still required in the premises.

Particulars of Defect.	Outstanding on 1.1.51	Found During Year	Remedied During Year	Outstanding on 31.12.51
Inadequate or Unsatisfactory washing facilities.	6	-	2	4
Want of Cleanliness in bars or beer-stores.	1	-	1	-
Insufficient sanitary accommodation.	2	-	-	2
Unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation (inadequate screening, no separate approaches for males and females, etc.).	8	-	5	3
Want of cleanliness in sanitary conveniences.	2	-	2	-
Totals	19	-	10	9

6. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 - BYELAWS UNDER SECTION 15.

Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air have been in operation in this District since the 17th July, 1950. In the course of inspection of food premises special attention has been given to the enforcement of the provisions of these Byelaws.

7. ICE-CREAM.

During the year frequent visits have been made to premises where ice-cream is manufactured or sold with a view to ensuring that the provisions of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, are observed.

Given below is a summary of the premises registered by this Authority for the Sale, Storage and Manufacture of ice-cream.

Register of Ice-Cream Premises.

	Premises on Register 1950	Added to Register 1951	Removed from Register 1951	Totals
Sale and Storage of ice-cream.	31	2	-	33
Manufacture of ice-cream.	6	-	-	6
Total	37	2	-	39

Ice-Cream Sampling.

Seventeen samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, and the following table shows a summary of the results obtained.

	Samples Taken	Provisional Grading recommended by Min. of Health			
		I	II	III	IV
Ice-cream manufactured in District	5	3	1	-	1
Ice-cream manufactured outside District	12	2	5	4	1
Totals	17	5	6	4	2

3. FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

G. FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	94	25	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	102	26	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
			Referred		
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage offloors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-	1	-

3. OUTWORK.

During the year lists of outworkers have been received showing the names of 65 persons engaged in the following classes of work.

Making of wearing apparel	11
" " furniture hangings	43
Brush-making	11

4. CHESHAM INDUSTRIES.

The following is a list of Factories and Factories (No Mechanical Power) on the Register on the 31st December, 1951 :-

Woodware and Joinery	17
Motor vehicle repairs	11
Brushware	9
Boot Manufacture and repairs	8
Bakers	6
Light Engineering	6
Clothing and Textiles	2
Printers	3
Packing	3
Toys	2
Builders	2
Miscellaneous	25
Total	94

Factories (No Mechanical Power)

Undertakers	1
Waste Merchant	1
Stone Mason	1
Packing	1
Tailors	1
Cycle Repairs	1
Blacksmith	1
Radio Engineers	1
Total	8

Appendix I

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

Public Analyst's Department,
Health Services Department,
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

D.F.H.BUTTON, A.R.C.S.,F.R.I.C.,
Public Analyst

15th October, 1951

M.45.

Report on the analysis of a sample of water received from Chesham Urban District Council per Mr.L.D.Saturley on 10th October, 1951.

Sample of water taken from mains tap at Council Offices, Chesham. Water supplied by Chesham Urban District Council.

Appearance	Clear & Colourless
Reaction (pH)	7.2
	Parts per million
Free Chlorine	nil
Total Solids	308
Chlorine in Chlorides	13 0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	nil
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.5
Nitrite Nitrogen	nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3hrs @ 98°F.)	nil
Hardness, Temporary	231
Permanent	30
Total	261
Metals - Lead, Copper, Zinc	Not found

Bacteriological Examination

Colonies on agar in 48 hours @ 37°C.	1 per ml.
Colonies on agar in 72 hours @ 20°C.	0 per ml.
Coliform bacilli	Not found in 100 ml.

From these results I am of opinion that the water is of high bacteriological and chemical purity and suitable for drinking for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) D.F.H.BUTTON

Public Analyst.

Appendix II

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

Public Analyst's Department,
Health Services Department,
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

D.F.H.BUTTON, A.R.C.S.,F.R.I.C.,
Public Analyst

15th October, 1951

M.46.

Analysis of a sample of water received on 10th October, 1951, from Chesham Urban District Council per Mr.L.D.Saturley.

Sample of water taken from tap off main at 52, Bois Moor Road, Chesham. Water supplied by Amersham & Beaconsfield District Water Company.

Appearance	Clear & Colourless
Reaction (pH)	7.2
	Parts per million
Free Chlorine	nil
Total Solids	327
Chlorine in Chlorides	14.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	nil
Nitrate Nitrogen	3.2
Nitrite Nitrogen	nil
Oxygen Absorbed from permanganate (3 hrs. @ 98°F.)	nil
Hardness, Temporary	242
Permanent	25
Total	267
Metals - Lead, Copper, Zinc	Not found

Bacteriological Examination

Colonies on agar in 48 hours @ 37°C.	0 per ml.
Colonies on agar in 72 hours @ 20°C.	0 per ml.
Coliform bacilli	Not found in 100 ml.

From these results I am of opinion that the water is of high chemical and bacteriological purity and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) D.F.H.BUTTON

Public Analyst.

Appendix III

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

Public Analyst's Department,
Health Services Department,
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

D.F.H.BUTTON, A.R.C.S.,F.R.I.C.,
Public Analyst.

20th August, 1951.

M.34.

Analysis of a sample of water received on the 14th August, 1951, from the Chesham Urban District Council per Mr.L.D.Saturley.

Sample of water taken from tap off main at 7, Lye Green Cottages, Chesham. Water supplied by Berkhamsted Water Undertaking.

Appearance	Clear & Colourless
Reaction (pH)	7.3
	Parts per million
Free Chlorine	0.02
Total Solids	346
Chlorine in Chlorides	17.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.002
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.002
Nitrate Nitrogen	3.4
Nitrite Nitrogen	nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3 hrs. @ 98°F.)	nil
Hardness, Temporary,	223
Permanent	35
Total	258
Metals, -Lead. Copper, Zinc	Not found

Bacteriological Examination

Colonies on agar in 48 hours @ 37°C.	5 per ml.
Colonies on agar in 72 hours @ 20°C.	2 per ml.
Coliform bacilli	Not found in 100 ml.

From these results I am of opinion that the water is of high chemical and bacteriological purity and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) R.G.MINOR

Deputy Public Analyst.

Appendix IV

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

Public Analyst's Department,
Health Services Department,
Walworth Road, S.E.17

D.F.H.BUTTON, A.R.C.S.,F.R.I.C.,
Public Analyst

20th August, 1951.

M.35.

Analysis of a sample of water received on 14th August, 1951, from the Chesham Urban District Council per Mr.L.D.Saturley.

Sample of water taken from standpipe at Vale Cottages, Chesham. Water supplied by Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

Appearance	Clear & Colourless
Reaction (pH)	7.1
	Parts per million
Free Chlorine	0.01
Total Solids	388
Chlorine in Chlorides	16
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.003
Nitrate Nitrogen	3.6
Nitrite Nitrogen	nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3 hrs. @ 98°F.)	nil
Hardness, Temporary	247
Permanent	38
Total	285
Metals - Lead, Copper, Zinc	Not found

Bacteriological Examination

Colonies on agar in 48 hours @ 37°C.	3 per ml.
Colonies on agar in 72 hours @ 20°C.	2 per ml.
Coliform bacilli	Not found in 100 ml.

From these results I am of opinion that the water is of high chemical and bacteriological purity and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) R.G.MINOR

Deputy Public Analyst.